

Interior Timberland Planning Team's Program

“Using Good Science is Our Job”

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Introduction

The Interior Timberland Planning Team (Team) has developed a series of documents that describe its program. This document provides an overview of the program. The program consists of two major components called Timberland Planning and Timber Harvest Review. Each of these components involves distinct strategies for resource protection. Timberland Planning addresses landscape and/or programmatic approaches to resource conservation while Timber Harvest Review address conservation through the regulatory process established in the Forest Practice Act and Rules.

Specific resources of concern are discussed in separate modules that are subsets of each component. For example, there are Willow Flycatcher Modules for both the Timberland Planning and Timber Harvest Review Components. Each Module is designed to be a “living document” and is anticipated to change as new knowledge is obtained, analysis techniques are developed and new partnerships are forged.

Main Issues

The current timber harvest review process only protects biological resources through formal review of individually submitted Timber Harvest Plans (THPs). For certain resources this process may not result in adequate protection because it does not focus on cumulative impacts or conditions at the landscape or ownership level. The process is also inefficient because the Department's recommendations require modifications to the THP at the end of the project planning process. Because these late changes to THPs are generally incorporated as enforceable language, the process often results in adversarial relations between the Department and timberland owners. By working with timberland owners to develop proactive, programmatic strategies for specific resources, the Department will improve resource protection, streamline the review process, and improve its relationships with stakeholders.

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to improve protection of Trustee Resources through the timber harvest review process and by developing conservation strategies in collaboration with timberland owners.

Vision

We inspire stewardship that promotes a rich diversity of natural resources across the landscape.

Principles

- A. We remain ethical and fair to promote both individual and Department credibility.
- B. We lead by example, strive for excellence, and capitalize on opportunities.
- C. We are flexible, creative, and innovative in finding solutions to problems.
- D. We will initiate a change in an effort to make an improvement.
- E. We use regulatory discretion that is appropriate for the level at which a resource is at risk.
- F. We seek first to understand before being understood.

Strategic Goals

- I. ***Develop a High Performance Team that has positive internal coordination and enjoys the workplace.***
 - A. Foster clear communication.
 - B. Clarify roles and responsibilities.
 - C. Ensure the Team's alignment and support of the Mission of the Department.
 - D. Make decisions at the lowest possible level.
 - E. Support continuous education.
- II. ***Develop effective strategies to protect Trustee Resources through Timberland Planning, THP review and Strategic Coordination.***
 - A. Identify high priority concerns and capture opportunities while seeking alignment with other supporting activities.
 - B. Develop comprehensive products that are easily understood and available to the Public.
 - C. Develop annual workplans that support strategic activities with high priorities.
 - D. Develop linkage between activities and the annual budget.
- III. ***Base activities and recommendations upon sound scientific principles and acknowledge when there is scientific uncertainty.***
 - A. Develop and maintain a reference library.
 - B. Encourage sharing of scientific information with stakeholders.
 - C. Support uniform data collection to complement scientific endeavors.
 - D. Develop "White Papers" that use the best available knowledge to support our teams endeavors.
- IV. ***Promote political support by creating and sharing success.***
 - A. Share our key program elements within and outside the Department.
 - B. Identify, create, and implement projects that have stakeholder support.
 - C. Focus on achieving success while promoting recognition of others.
- V. ***Solicit feedback from timberland owners, CDF and other stakeholders to improve relationships.***
 - A. Develop a network that promotes open and honest communication.
 - B. Obtain and implement ideas that improve our program.
- VI. ***Monitor Results***
 - A. Evaluate results of all the activities identified in this Strategic Goals section.
 - B. Develop criteria for measuring success for Timberland Planning and THP review.
 - C. Wisely use adaptive management to promote resource protection and increase our credibility.